

## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD SUMMARY

Thursday, January 22, 2004

### SENATE

#### Measures Introduced:

**S. 2017.** A bill *to designate the United States courthouse and post office building located at 93 Atocha Street in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and the "Luis A. Ferre United States Courthouse and Post Office Building;"* to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Santorum

Page S 184, S 186

#### H.R. 2673 - Agriculture Appropriations Act (Omnibus Appropriations)--Conference Report:

*By 65 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. 3) Senate agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2673, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, clearing the measure for the President.*

Pages S 129-57, D 14

**During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following actions:**

Pursuant to the order of January 21, 2004, the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on January 20, 2004 was agreed to.

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Pursuant to the order of January 21, 2004, the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on January 20, 2004 was agreed to.

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By 61 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. 2), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the conference report.

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#### Committee Meetings:

**Committee on the Judiciary:** *Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Raymond W. Gruender, of Missouri, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, who was introduced by Senators Bond and Talent; Ricardo S. Martinez, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, who was introduced by Senator Murray; Gene E. K. Pratter, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, who was introduced by Senators Specter and Santorum; and Neil Vincent Wake, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, who was introduced by Senator Kyl, after each nominee testified and answered questions in their own behalf.*

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#### Remarks:

##### **Judicial Nominations.**

*"...We open this year confronted with three additional disappointing developments regarding judicial nominations: the Pickering recess appointment, the renomination of Claude Allen, and the pilfering of Democratic offices' computer files by Republican staff. Late last Friday afternoon President Bush made his most cynical and divisive appointment to date when he bypassed the Senate and unilaterally installed Charles Pickering to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. That appointment is without the consent of the Senate and is a particular affront to the many individuals and membership organizations representing African Americans in the Fifth Circuit who have strongly opposed this nomination. With respect to his extreme judicial nominations, President George W. Bush is the most divisive President in American history. Through his extreme judicial nominations, President Bush is dividing the American people and undermining the fairness and independence of the federal judiciary on which all Americans depend..."*

Leahy

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**HOUSE**

*The House was not in session today.  
Its next meeting will be held on Friday, January 23, 2004, at 10:00 a.m.*

**Next SENATE MEETING: 9:30 a.m., Friday, January 23, 2004.**

**Next HOUSE MEETING: 10:00 a.m., Friday, January 23, 2004.**

**OLA: A. Getter-Santos**